GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:155
ANSWERED ON:29.10.2008
CONSERVATION OF MANGROVES
Nandy Shri Amitava;Sujatha Smt. C.S.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mangrove areas are depleting In the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the impact of the decreasing mangrove forest on the environment;

(d) whether the Government has identified mangrove areas in the country for intensive conservation and management of mangrove forest;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the details of proposals received from various States including that of Kerala for conservation of mangroves;and

(g) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (g) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No.155 due for reply on 29.10.2008 regarding `Conservation of Mangroves`.

(a),(b) & (c) As per the State of Forest Report 2005,published by Forest Survey of India, the mangrove cover which was 4448 km2 in 2003,has reduced to 4445 km2 in 2005 i.e.there has been a marginal decrease of 3 sq.km.in mangrove cover of the country.During the same period,there was increase in the mangrove areas in Gujarat from 916 sq.km.to 936 sq. km. However, there was reduction in the area in Andaman and Nicobar Islands from 658 sq.km. to 637 sq. km. and in West Bengal from 2120 sq.km. to 2118 sq.km.This is mainly because of the tsunami that hit Andaman & Nicobar Islands on 26 December 2004. Gujarat has shown an increase in mangrove cover mainly because of plantations and protection measures. Mangrove play a vital role in protecting the coastal areas from the impact of tidal waves but the extent of protection is variable & is a function of several factors.

(d) & (e) Yes,Sir.On a nation-wide basis,38 sites have been identified as appropriate for planting of mangroves,and their conservation & management. The State-wise list is given in Annexure-I.

Under the Scheme on Conservation and Management of Mangroves,100% Central Assistance is given to coastal States and Union Territories for implementing the approved Management Action Plans in the identified sites for components like survey & demarcation, mangrove planting, restoration & regeneration,livelihood supports for supplementary and alternate occupations, protection & surveillance measures, and education & awareness.

(f) & (g) The details of Central Assistance provided to coastal States including Kerala for Conservation & Management of Mangroves from 2000-01 to 2008-09 (upto October,2008) is given in Annexure-II. In particular, the Ministry had sanctioned the Management Action Plan (MAP) for Kannur, Kerala at a total cost of Rs. 49.21/- lakh and that for Vembanad for Rs. 51.25/- lakh for implementation by the State Government during 2006-07.Based on the Utilization Certificates submitted by Government of Kerala, an unspent balance of Rs. 11.52/- lakh has been carried forward from previous to the current financial year for completing the balance works of the MAP of 2006-07 for Kannur. Similarly, a sum of Rs. 10.25/- lakh has been released and Rs. 1.35/- lakh have been revalidated during current financial year to enable the Government of Kerala to complete the balance works of MAP of 2006-07 for Vembanad.